

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 TRSE-00 SCI-06 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11

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FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0110

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0299

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, ENRG

SUBJ: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS RE ALGERIAN
INITIATIVES ON ENERGY AND AT UNGA

1. I SAW FRENCH AMBASSADOR SOUTOU TODAY FOR TOUR
D'HORIZON WHICH HAD BEEN SET BEFORE WE WERE BOTH
CALLED IN BY BOUMEDIENE FEBRUARY 7. SOUTOU
CONFIRMED PRESS COMMENT RE RAPPROCHEMENT OF FRENCH
AND ALGERIAN POSITIONS TO TEXTEN THAT THERE WAS NO
CLASH BEWTEEN FRENCH INITIATIVE FOR UN MEETING ON
ENERGY AND ALGERIAN CALL FOR EXTROARDINARY UNGA
SESSION SO LONG AS ALGERIAN SESSION ADMITTED
DISCUSSION OF ENERGY PROBLEM BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE
UNGA.

2. REFERRING TO MY MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE FRENCH
AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IMPORTANT THING WAS
THAT IT HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE IT DEMONSTRATED
BOUMEDIENE'S DESIRE KEEP ALL LINES OPEN AND HIS
INTEREST IN LONG TERM FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH U.S.

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3. SOUTOU SAID HE TOO WONDERED WHY ALGERIANS WERE

SO VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. FROM HIS DISCUSSION WITH BOUMEDIENE HE HAD SENSED ALGERIAN CONCERN RE DISARRAY WITHIN NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND BOUMEDIENE'S DESIRE TAKE INITIATIVE THAT WOULD BRING

MOVEMENT TOGETHER. HE THOUGHT BOUMEDIENE SAW WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AS ACTING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION, HIS SECOND POINT WAS THAT BOUMEDIENE SAW WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AS POSSIBLY ESTABLISHING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LARGE CONSUMERS AND LARGE PRODUCERS IN MANNER INIMICAL TO ARAB UNITY AND ALGERIAN INTERESTS. I TOLD HIM OUR CLEAREST MESSAGE FROM ALGERIANS WAS THEIR CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY OF SHARP REDUCTION IN OIL PRICES. HE AGREED THAT THIS WAS MAJOR CONCERN RELATED TO SECOND POINT HE HAD MADE.

4. SOUTOU BELIEVES ALGERIANS ARE FACING PROBLEM IN THAT SPECIAL SESSION UNGA MIGHT BE CALLED FOR DATE SOONER THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED AND IN ANY CASE BEFORE PLANNED MEETING OF NONALIGNED EXECUTIVE BUREAU SCHEDULED FOR ABOUT MARCH 20. HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY OTHER NONALIGNED LEADERS WOULD WANT BUREAU MEETING TO OCCUR BEFORE UNGA SESSION.

5. ALTHOUGH BOUMEDIENE DID NOT MENTION IT TO EITHER OF US IT IS ASSUMED HERE THAT HE WILL ATTEND SPECIAL SESSION UNGA AND DELIVER MODIFIED VERSION OF SPEECH THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED BEFORE OUTBREAK OF MIDDLE EAST WAR IN OCTOBER.
EAGLETON

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